

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277  
Masatada NUMANO, et al. : Confirmation Number: 7856  
Application No.: 10/579,442 : Group Art Unit: 1793  
Filed: May 15, 2006 : Examiner: Kevin P. Kerns  
For: CASTING NOZZLE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

**CERTIFICATION PARAGRAPH**

The undersigned certifies that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign

application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2).

A copy of the United States Office Action is attached for the Examiner's information. Please note that the references have been previously cited in a United States Office Action dated November 3, 2008 in the present application.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Please recognize our Customer No. 20277  
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